

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 are currently pending in the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Reasons for Entry of Amendment

As discussed in greater detail hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 are improper and should be withdrawn. If the present application is not passed to Issue, Applicants submit that the finality of the Final Office Action mailed on June 18, 2003 should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.116, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments as they remove issues for appeal (remove informalities and cancel claims) and place the current application in a condition for allowance.

Drawings

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's approval of the Drawing Change Approval Request filed on March 24, 2003. In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have filed three sheets of formal drawings concurrently herewith that incorporate the approved changes.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Minoura (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,365). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Specifically, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the unique combination of elements of the claimed invention of claim 1, including the feature(s) of "a Fresnel field lens, said Fresnel field lens being located on an optical path of the reflected beam from the reflective mirror to receive and converge the reflected beams coming out of an outgoing surface; a diffusive plate, said diffusive plate being located on the optical path of the outgoing beams from the Fresnel field lens to display the image contained in the beams and to adjust the view angle and gain of the image; and a diffuser, said diffuser being located on the Fresnel field lens on the side of the

reflective mirror to scatter the beams from the reflective mirror and the multiple internal reflection beams inside the Fresnel field lens; and *wherein the thickness of the Fresnel lens is decreased so that the multiple internal reflection beams inside the Fresnel lens coincide with the original beams.*" (emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record relied upon by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the unique combination of elements of even the claimed invention of claim 1. Specifically, Minoura et al. fail to teach or suggest the elimination of the three types of ghost images in a rear projection screen. In the claimed invention, Applicants have provided Fresnel lens having a decreased thickness that eliminates the first type of ghost image discussed in greater detail in Applicants specification at page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 7-see FIG. 5). In contrast, Minoura et al. fail to teach or discuss the elimination of this type ghost image. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 6-10, Applicants submit that the diffuser of the claimed invention is copied on the field lens on the side of the reflective mirror by a specific process, e.g., the diffuser and field lens are one element. In contrast, the alleged Fresnel Lens (element 16a) and diffusing layer (element 17) of the Minoura et al. reference are two different elements. The claimed invention achieves a simplified structure with advantageous results heretofore

only achieved through a more complex arrangement such as that of Minoura et al. These advantages are discussed in greater detail on pages 4-5 of the specification. Applicants submit that this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Minoura (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,365). Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minoura in view of Langille (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,346). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since Minoura et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention of claim 1, these rejections should be withdrawn. In addition, the claimed invention makes the field lens thinner to eliminate the first type of ghost image in addition to the first type of ghost image. In Minoura et al., only the second and third types of ghost images are addressed, e.g., with the use of a diffuser. Specifically, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the elimination of the first type of ghost image discussed in Applicants specification in greater detail at pages 4-5.

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner has simply dismissed the claimed limitation of the thickness of the Fresnel lens being "smaller than 0.5mm" as

an obvious optimization of known parameter in the prior art. However, the Examiner has not identified this parameter in either of the Minoura et al. and/or Langille et al. references. Therefore, this parameter is not known in the alleged combination of the prior art of record. In addition, Applicants have identified a unique, beneficial result of using a Fresnel lens having a thickness of smaller than 0.5mm, i.e., elimination of both the first and the second types of ghost images. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Although Applicants are aware of the holding in *In Re Aller*, Applicants respectfully submit that this decision does not excuse the Examiner's burden of showing that one of ordinary skill in the art would have even known that the alleged "optimization" of the lens thickness would have the beneficial results of reducing BOTH the first and the second ghost image artifacts specifically described in the specification. Applicants have presented a unique combination of elements that solves problems heretofore not addressed by the prior art of record. Since the Examiner has not provided any actual evidence that the prior art of record teaches or suggests this feature, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, the Examiner has alleged that the general conditions of the claim are known in the prior art. This is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that Minoura et al. never discusses the reduction of the thickness of the Fresnel lens as in the claimed invention. Therefore, Minoura et al. cannot

reasonably be interpreted to suggest any obvious optimization of an allegedly "known value" when the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the parameter altogether. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is improperly interpreting the holding of *In Re Aller*, e.g., this case does not support the Examiner's modification of the prior art of record. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patents relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in a condition for allowance.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

Docket No. 3313-0441P

Appl. No. 10/014,514

Art Unit: 2851

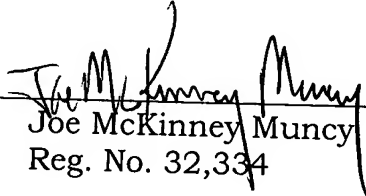
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

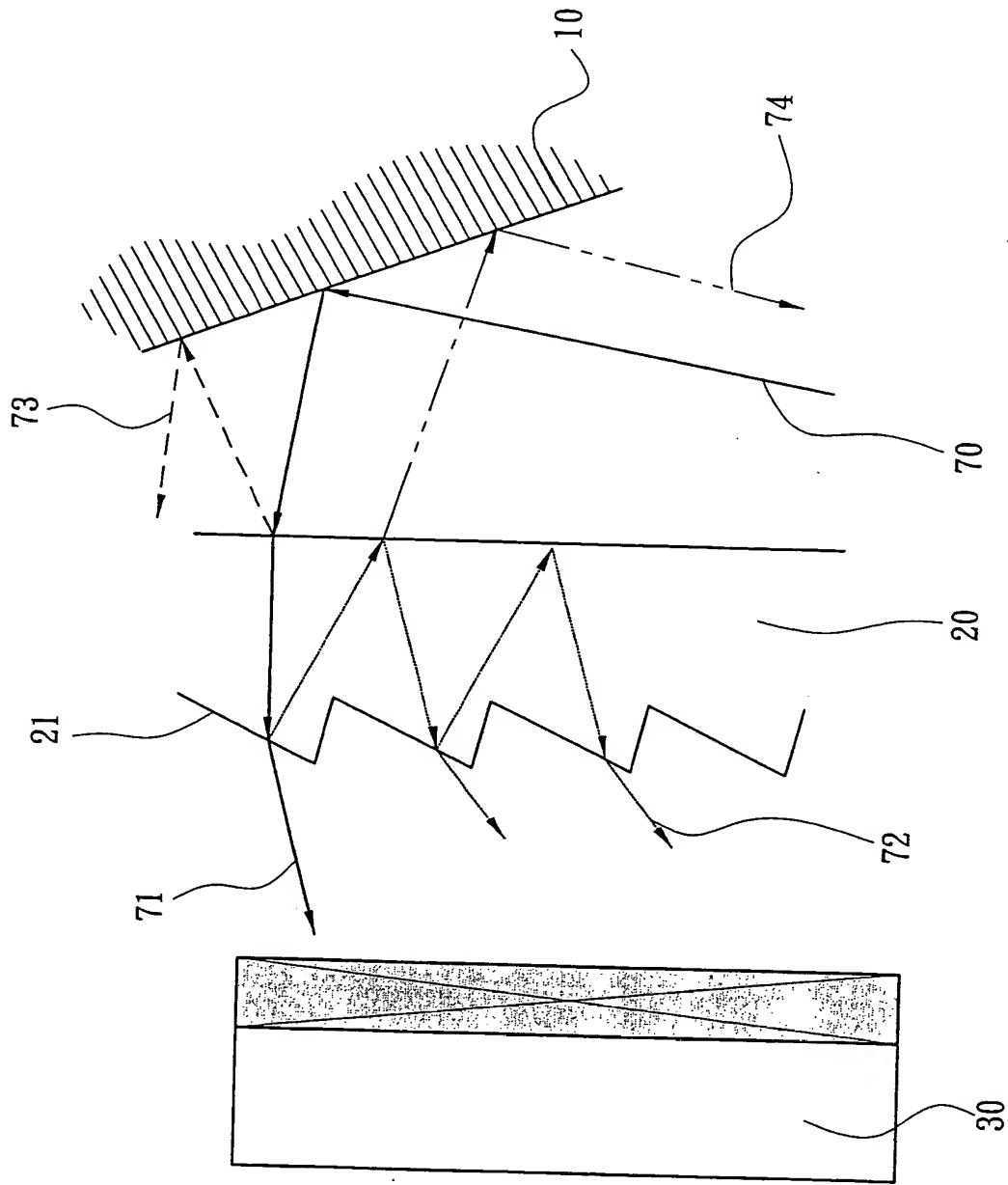
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Attachments: Three (3) sheets of drawings



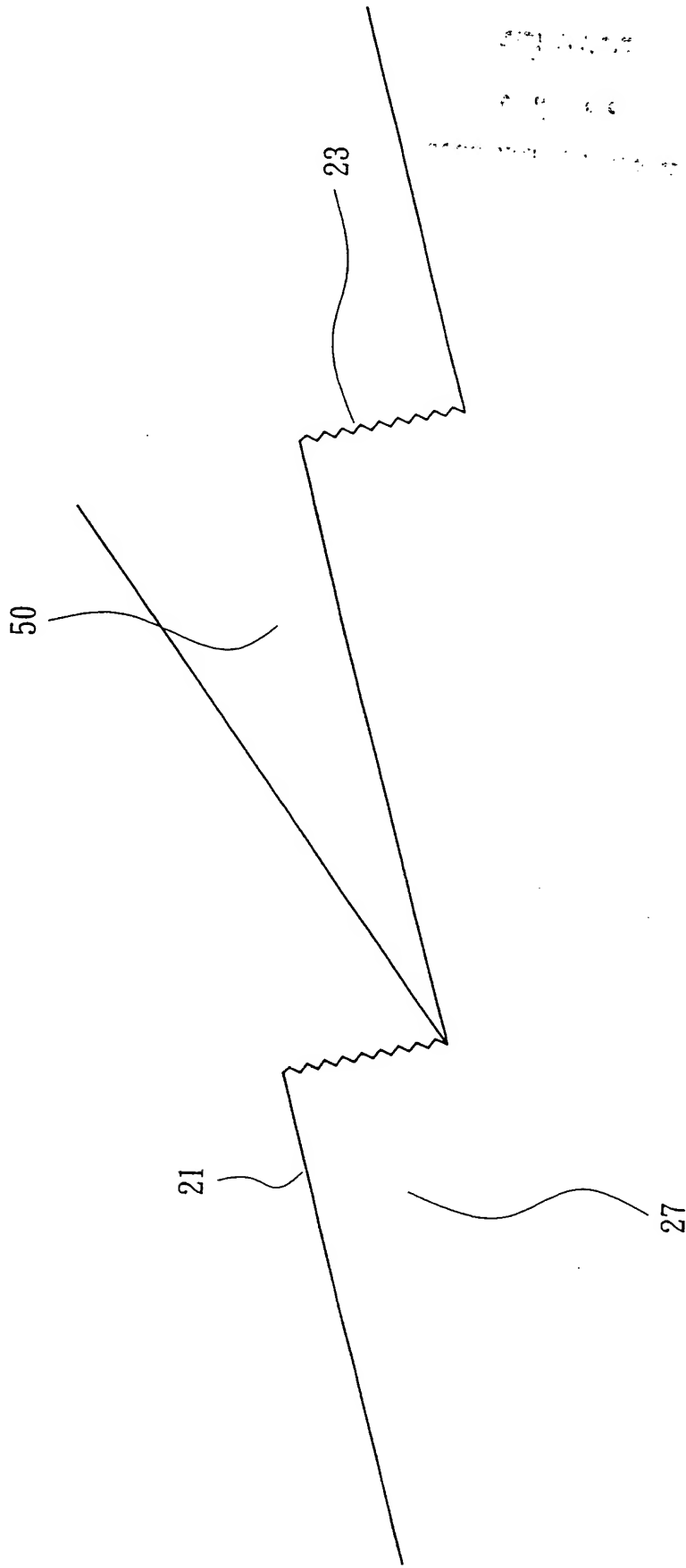


FIG. 2 (RELATED ART)

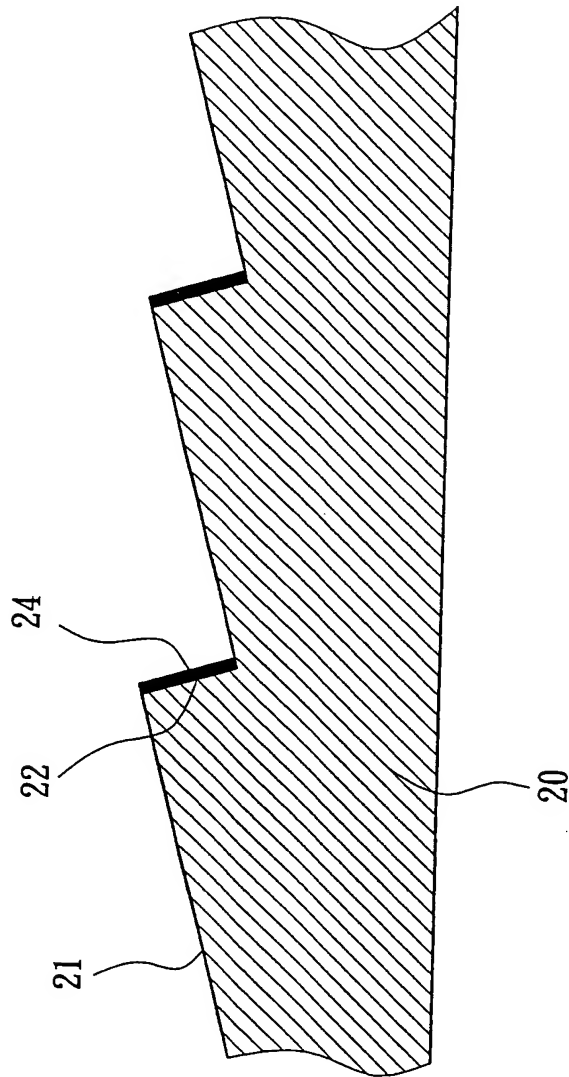


FIG. 3 (RELATED ART)